

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OES-05 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 SAI-01 /046 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9697

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 1929

DEPT PLEASE PASS DOT FOR ALLEN TPI-42

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION: RAIL (05.03):

RAILWAY TIE DELIVERY

REF: STATE 28622, ALLEN/EMBOFF TELCON OF 9 FEBRUARY

1. EMBOFF 10 FEBRUARY REQUESTED FROM ISHCENKO ON URGENT BASIS IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION, SUCH AS NUMBER OF BILL OF LADING, FOR PACKAGE OF RAILWAY TIES, AS WELL AS TELEX OF INSTRUCTION TO SOMMA FOR BOOKKEEPING TRANSACTION. EMBOFF ALSO INFORMED ISHCENKO OF ALLEN/SMIRNOV AGREEMENT TO DELIVER TIES AND HOLD CEREMONY 12 FEBRUARY IN BALTIMORE.

2. LEVTONOV SHORTLY AFTERWARD CONTACTED EMBOFF TO EXPLAIN THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT OBSTACLES TO A CHANGE FROM NYP TO BALTIMORE. THE PROBLEMS INCLUDE:

A) THE CAPTAIN HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED, AND HIS RADIO IS NOW SHUT OFF (EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD ALREADY ANTICIPATED THAT PROBLEM AND HAD REQUESTED MS ALLEN TO HAVE SOMMA CONTACT SHIP'S CAPTAIN. LEVTONOV RESPONDED THAT HE IS UNSURE THAT SHIP'S CAPTAIN WILL RESPOND TO SOMMA REQUEST).

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B) TIES HAVE BEEN SENT FREE OF CHARGE AND WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION TO NYC (NOTE: ONLY DESIGNATION IS CHICAGO ADDRESS); CAPTAIN WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE WITH THEM TO BALTIMORE, AND LOAD-SCHEDULING MAY PREVENT CHANGE.

C) MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE HAS AGREED TO (AND DONE CONSIDERABLE PAPERWORK FOR) SHIPMENT TO CHICAGO FROM NYC, NOT FROM BALTIMORE (LEVTONOV ADDED COMMENT THAT HOPEFULLY INSTRUCTIONAL TELEX WILL GO OUT TO SOMMA TODAY). BUREAUCRATIC CLEARANCES AT MIN MERCHANT MARINE HAVE TAKEN NEARLY A WEEK FOR PREVIOUSLY-AGREED NYC-TO-CHICAGO SHIPMENT; LEVTONOV FEARS THAT PERMISSION FOR CHANGE CANNOT BE FORCED THROUGH MIN MERCHANT MARINE IN TIME.

D) LEVTONOV PRESUMES CUSTOM CLEARANCES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED.

3. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE EXPLAINED TO DOT AND REQUESTED THAT LEVTONOV INFORM SMIRNOV.

4. COMMENT: LARGE PART OF DIFFICULTY IN THIS ARRANGEMENT APPEARS CONNECTED TO LAND SHIPMENT FROM EAST COAST TO CHICAGO. IF US SIDE COULD TAKE CARE OF THAT ASPECT, THEN INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN ON CHANGE IN CEREMONY AND DELIVERY TO BALTIMORE COULD BE DONE BY SMIRNOV THROUGH SOMMA. CAPTAIN PRESUMABLY WOULD ACCEPT INSTRUCTIONS OF SOVIETEMBASSY.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSPORTATION, CONSTRUCTION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW01929
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760050-0183
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760264/aaaaceeb.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DOTE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 28622
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION: RAIL (05.03): RAILWAY TIE DELIVERY
TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006